

April 5, 03 Reading Eagle



Melissa A. Kepner, foreground, and Emily A. Gauss paint background murals for a dinosaur exhibit at

Reading Eagle: Lisa Fernandez

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The Reading Public Museum is gearing up for its huge "Dinosaurs!" exhibit next month by bringing in three teams of Kutztown University art students to paint large-scale murals as backdrops.

The work will provide the accurate scenery needed for

the dinosaurs, as well as hands-on experience for the students in preparing museum exhibits for children, said Ronald C. Roth, museum director.

He said museum visitors can watch the 12 students work at various times through this month. The backdrops are be-

ing painted on the second floor and will be moved to the first floor for the exhibit, which opens May 23.

The students will receive credit for producing the four murals and attending sessions with museum curators to learn about exhibition planning and procurement.

In Bally, customers accepting free water

A manufacturing firm that assumed responsibility for contamination in the municipal supply is giving free water to most households and 10 businesses.

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By Robin Huiras
Reading Eagle

About 80 percent of Bally residents and many businesses have taken free bottled water in response to municipal drinking-water contamination.

American Household Inc., the manufacturing company that assumed responsibility for the contamination, offered the water after the federal Environmental Protection Agency discovered the solvent 1,4-dioxane in the municipal water supply in February.

The chemical is listed as a potential cancer-causing agent.

About 330 households and 10 businesses are receiving bottled water, American Household said. Bally has 413 occupied housing units, according to the Census Bureau.

Although hundreds of water customers acted on the free-water offer, many don't appear to be overly concerned about the risk.

EPA officials have said the level of dioxane in the water supply does not pose an immediate health threat, but there is concern about long-term exposure.

"I don't think people panicked," borough Manager Toni Hemerka said. "They got all the facts and made informed decisions."

Hemerka ordered water for borough hall but isn't shutting water service off to Bally buildings.

"It should be their choice if they want to drink it from the bottle or from the tap," Hemerka said.

James P. Reichart, president of Bally Block Co., one of the borough's largest employers, ordered water for the company's 70 employees.

Water continues on B2

zoner barred from hearing

can't rule on a proposed
ound because his brother is
gation, a judge decides.

proceeding," the judge wrote.

Cuesta's brother Jeffrey is a founding member of Union Township United, a citizens group that has taken a legal stand against Liberty Bell Motorsports Park. The auto race track and campground are proposed for 620 acres off Route 724 between Red Corner and Shed roads.

If Cuesta does not recuse himself, the court would enjoin him from participating in hearings involving the racetrack.

"I'm disappointed in the ruling," Cuesta said Friday. "I still believe I could be fair and impartial, but I will follow the

court order."

Ethan Michael Inc., the Montgomery County company owned by Louis J. Mascaro that is proposing the complex, filed the objection to Cuesta serving on the zoning board.

Mascaro needs a zoning exception from Union Township to build the complex. A hearing regarding that request has dragged on more than a year.

Cuesta was appointed to the three-member zoning board in December.

"It's clear that when your brother is a party to the hearing and is an adverse party, you can't sit as a judge," said William F. Fox Jr., Mascaro's attorney. "I think the judge made the correct decision."

Although Cuesta has been ordered to step aside, zoning

Inside

Supervisors to consider race-track zoning challenge. B3.

sessions to consider the race-track plan would continue, said Adam Krafczek, zoning hearing board solicitor.

Krafczek said it would be up to Chairman Donald E. Jacobs to decide whether to proceed with two members or to request that an alternate serve in Cuesta's place.

The alternate would have to read the transcripts from about 18 sessions that have already taken place, Krafczek said.

The other zoning board member is Richard F. Stevens Jr., and the board alternate is James Olszewski.

Contact reporter Robin Huiras at 610-371-5037 or rhuiras@readingeagle.com.

signs in with name recognition for city post



THE READING
CANDIDATE



MAYORAL RACE
PROFILES

Richard D. Mountz

Seeking Democratic nomination
for Reading mayor

various nonprofit groups.
Education: A graduate of Reading

AR500011

...a suspicious person who matched the description of a bank robbery suspect, officials said.

Students in Northwest Middle School, 1000 N. Front St., were held over in their classrooms starting about 3 p.m. while police searched the building. They did not find any intruders.

After officials determined that the building was safe, dismissal began at 4 p.m. with police escorting the students in groups of four.

The robbery occurred at 2:25 p.m. at Allfirst Bank, 160 N. Front St.

The suspect, described as a black male, about 6 feet 1 inch-

...did not display a weapon in the robbery.

They gave this account:

The robber entered the bank and handed a teller a hand-written note demanding money, investigators said. The robber fled after the teller gave him an undisclosed amount of cash.

There were no injuries.

Dr. M. Melissa Jamula, superintendent, said she made the decision to lock down the building based on recommendations from the Reading police.

As a precaution, the district also delayed dismissal at nearby Northwest and Riverside elementary schools until 4 p.m., Jamula said.

WATER | Customers in Bally agree to company's offer

Continued from B1

"Personally, do I believe that this is a horrible situation?" Reichart said. "No I don't. If you read the numbers, they're not horrible. This is not something where you have to run down the street screaming."

American Household, which owns the manufacturing site formerly known as Sunbeam Corp. and Bally Engineered Structures, will continue to provide free water until the problem is remedied.

Although that could take six to 12 months, progress is being made, said Mitch Cron, EPA remedial project manager.

The state Department of Environmental Protection is working to determine exactly how much 1,4-dioxane can be safely discharged into surface water.

Although high levels of the

chemical are known to cause cancer in animals, no environmental agency has established a safe standard for humans.

"Once that is worked out, it will give American Household a lot more basic information on what their plan of action will be," Cron said.

The EPA has estimated that 600 parts per billion would be an immediate health threat. In February, two tests of Bally's water revealed levels between 20 and 50 parts per billion.

Two possible solutions would be establishing another well or devising a way to treat 1,4-dioxane at the source, Cron said.

"Within a three-month period, we hope to have good firm idea of which resolution they want to pursue," Cron said.

Contact reporter Robin Huiras at 610-371-5037 or rhuiras@readingeagle.com.

History of problems

A timeline of Bally's water problems:

1928 — Bally creates a reservoir to provide municipal water to its residents.

1977 — Borough officials decide to drill a second water source — Municipal Well 3 — along North Third Street.

1983 — The Environmental Protection Agency discovers the contaminant trichloroethane, or TCA, in Municipal Well 3. The agency designates Bally's water system a Superfund cleanup site. The determination is made that the contamination stemmed from refrigeration-systems manufacturing at Bally Engineered Systems, which was purchased by the Sunbeam Corp. in 1972 and renamed American Household Inc. in 2002.

1989 — The EPA and the company devised a remedy to clean Bally's water by filtering it through a system of air strippers. The stripping process is monitored weekly.

2002 — The EPA develops a test to check for the solvent 1,4-dioxane in water.

2003 — Environmental officials test Bally's water for the presence of 1,4-dioxane, which was likely used by Bally Engineered Systems to stabilize more volatile chlorinated solvents in its manufacturing activities.

What to do

American Household Inc., the company that treats the municipal-water supply in Bally, will provide free bottled water to Bally water customers who may have concerns. The voluntary program also applies to homes in Washington Township that are served by the Bally system.

To establish delivery, contact Deer Park at 1-800-950-9907. Businesses with drinking water needs can contact Bally Borough Manager Toni Hemerka at 610-845-2351.

Sources: Environmental Protection Agency and Bally

County commissioner said Friday night during a forum in Reading Area Community College.

Four Republicans and two Democrats seeking nominations in the May 20 primary election discussed civil-rights issues during the forum sponsored by the *Minority Voice* and *El Hispano* newspapers. More than 50 people attended.

Voters will pick two candidates in each party to move on to the November general election.

None of the candidates supported creating a county panel on race relations and diversity.

Republican incumbent Timothy A. Reiver said residents can bring concerns about any

...also opposed adopting a county civil rights ordinance.

Democrat Stanley E. Cieplinski Jr. also was reluctant to create a county panel on race relations.

Social service agencies and community groups could band together to work on improving civil rights, Cieplinski, the Exeter School District athletic director, said.

"I think if we add government bureaucracy to that, it could end up moving in a way we would not like it to move," he said.

Government officials need to enforce existing civil rights laws, Cieplinski said.

Republican incumbent Mark M. Scott agreed that the county

Court log

Sentences

Judge Scott D. Keller presided over the following cases:

■ **Angel L. Rivera**, 35, of the 300 block of Greenwich Street was sentenced to 24 days to one year in Berks County Prison af-

ter pleading guilty to possessing heroin in Reading.

■ **William L. Brown**, 52, of the 800 block of Franklin Street was sentenced to 99 days to 23 months in Berks County Prison after pleading guilty to unauthorized use of a vehicle in Reading.

■ **Allee M. DeBooth**, 36, of the 300 block of Rose Street was sentenced to 57 days to one year in Berks County Prison after

NOTICE TO THE PEOPLE

Berks County doctors are planning a Political Protest from Wednesday, April 30th through Tuesday, May 6th.

The purpose of the protest is to get the medical liability (malpractice) fixed now, before it's too late. Multimillion-dollar pain and suffering are driving doctors out of business.

The following Berks County doctors will be supporting the Protest and will be closing their offices or limiting office hours the week of April 30 May 6th: Patients whose doctors are listed below may wish to contact their doctors' offices to find out how the doctor is participating and what arrangements have been made for medical care during the Protest.

David Abraham, MD
Paul Alta, MD
Ali Amin, MD
Jame Arnold, MD
Margaret Atwell, MD
Berard Avella, MD
J Marc Aynardi, MD
P. Kurt Bamberger, MD
Christopher Beutel, MD
Thomas Beutel, MD
Edward Bigos, MD
Fernando Bonanni Jr, MD
Robert Brigham, MD
Michael Brown, MD
Patti Brown, MD
Lucy Cairns, MD
Peter Calder, MD
Peter Campanella, MD
Lynn Carlson, MD
Frank Carter, MD
Joseph Cavori, MD
David Christensen, MD
Richard Close, MD
James Coffey, MD
Deborah Consoli, MD
Tracy Conte, MD
John Dethoff, MD
Raylene Devine, MD
Wayne DeVos, MD
Scott Dietrich, MD
Dennis DiRenzo, MD
Thomas Dooley, MD
Jeffrey Driben, MD
Scott Duffy, MD
J. Michael Eager, MD
Thomas Ebersole, MD
Robert Eckert, DO
Pamela Ellenberger, MD
Tatyana Erlikh, MD
Alan Fleischer, MD

Anne Flynn, MD
Christie Ganas, MD
Gary Ginsberg, MD
Jeffrey Gold, DO
Joshua Goldberg, DO
Barry Graham, MD
Robert Greenberg, MD
Karen Gurski, MD
Girdhari Hanjura, MD
Terrance Hanley, MD
Ezzat Hanna, MD
Jeffrey Hassel, MD
Dawn Hasson, MD
Edward Hein, MD
J. Michael Heffernan, MD
Fredericka Heller, MD
John Henry, MD
Ronald Herb, DO
Scott Horner, MD
Robert Howard, DO
Raymond Hubbard, MD
Domenic Izzo, MD
Eric Jaxheimer, MD
George Jenckes, MD
Craig Johnson, MD
Brian Kane, MD
Winifred Kao, MD
Johanna Kelly, MD
Craig Kimmel, MD
Joseph Korey Jr, MD
Randall Kramer, MD
Ronald Krol, MD
John LaManna, MD
Jung-Pil Lee, MD
Joseph Leonl, MD
Joseph Levan, MD
Benjamin Lloyd, MD
Charles Lutz, MD
Donald McBryan Jr, MD
Timothy Makatche, DO

Joseph Mariglio, MD
Paul Marr, MD
John Martin Jr, MD
Zeferino Martinez, MD
Richard Meagher, MD
Sanand Menon, MD
Luciano Migliarino, MD
Jay Miller, MD
John Moser, MD
Alvin Moyer, MD
B Charles Muvdi, MD
Paul Neuman, DO
Beverly Niehls, MD
Orthopaedic Associates
of Reading, Ltd.
Edward Pan, MD
John Penta, MD
Nader Rahmanian, MD
Brian Reedy, MD
James Restrepo, MD
Mark Reuben, MD
Anne Rohrbach, MD
Albert Roke, MD
Richard Rothfleisch, MD
Rocco Santarelli, DO
Robin Savar, DO
Benjamin Schlechter, MD
Hector Seda, MD
Michael Sergi, MD
Tiffany Sergi, MD
Pathanjali Sharma, MD
Barry Shultz, MD
Stephen Sihelnik, MD
Vijay Singh, MD
Edward Skorpinski, MD
Raymond Smith, MD
Alexander Spasic, MD
John Stelmach, MD
Paul Stelmach, MD
Douglas Tase, MD